



GUARDIAN OF PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

September 9, 2011

September is National Preparedness Month

A Time to Remember...A Time to Prepare

This September, our nation will mark the ten year anniversary of 9/11, remembering those lost, honoring our first responders and renewing our commitment to prepare and plan for emergencies. September is National Preparedness Month, founded after 9/11 to increase preparedness in the US and at home. Please set aside time to make sure that you, your family and our community as a whole are prepared for future emergencies and disasters. You can take action now.

Make a Plan... Build a Kit...Keep Informed!

For more information on personal and family preparedness, please visit any one of these websites:



Presidential Proclamation - National Preparedness Month

President Obama issued a Presidential Proclamation, officially declaring September National Preparedness Month. This year's theme is "A time to remember, a time to prepare." The President evokes a message of remembrance as we approach the tenth anniversary of 9/11, and recognizes the resilience of Americans in recent disasters such as the Joplin tornadoes and Hurricane Irene. These events serve as reminders and underscore the importance of preparedness as we work together this month of September.

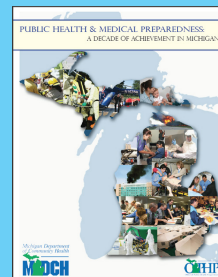
Take Action: Join the thousands of organizations that pledge to prepare by signing up as a National Preparedness Month Coalition Member

Educate Others: Emphasize what to do before, during and after disasters

Promote Opportunities: Through Serve.gov, Citizen Corps and CERT

Share Information: Use the NPM Discussion Forums and Calendar to share and learn

As a leader in your organization, you are a trusted voice in your community -- you play a key leadership role in informing the public on how to get prepared. You'll find ideas, templates, sample messages, and additional information when you sign up as a coalition member. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to serving your communities.



Public Health & Medical Preparedness: A Decade of Achievement in Michigan

The events of September 11 and the subsequent Anthrax attacks rocked the nation and forever changed the face of public health emergency preparedness and response.

Over the last decade many advancements and achievements have been made within the State, local health departments and healthcare systems across Michigan. Preparedness efforts have yielded a well-established system of strong partnerships, fully-tested and vetted response plans, a robust technology-based infrastructure and a trained preparedness workforce that serve to protect the health of Michigan's citizens during times of emergency and throughout every day.

In honor of the 10-year anniversary of 9/11, the Michigan Department of Community Health, Office of Public Health Preparedness developed a commemorative publication to showcase some of these successes illustrating just how far Michigan's readiness to respond has come.

Table of Contents...

Preparedness Month Webinars.....	2
Communication.....	3
Surveillance & Epidemiology	3
Homeland Security.....	3
Regional News	4
National News	4
Tools & Resources	5
Training & Events	7

Read the Next *Guardian* Issue!
September 23, 2011

National Preparedness Month Webinars Prepare Children, Schools, Pet Owners and Aging Americans

Click [HERE](#) for National Preparedness Month webinar Login Information
National Preparedness Month (NPM) presents the perfect opportunity for everyone to get involved and learn more about disaster preparedness. In the wake of recent events such as Hurricane Irene, the East Coast earthquake, and the Joplin and Tuscaloosa tornadoes, now is a critical time to promote preparedness education. Join us for these upcoming informative webinar sessions aimed at educating individuals, communities and organizations about the various aspects of preparing for a disaster in today's ever-changing world:

September 13th: Available Resources to Prepare Schools.

This [webinar](#) will answer many of your questions about getting schools prepared for a disaster of any kind. If you are a school administrator, principal, teacher or concerned parent, you won't want to miss this integral discussion. Some of the questions to be discussed include:

- How was Joplin successful in preparing for and recovering from a disaster? How can other schools learn from their experience?
- Where can schools find additional funding and resources in today's budget climate? How does the DHS grant process work?
- What free preparedness trainings are available for schools and school administrators, both online and in person?

What preparedness resources are available to schools at little or no cost?



September 15th: Preparedness for the Pets in our Homes and in our Hearts.

Whether it is a cat, dog, turtle, fish, horse, cow or llama, animals are a very important part of our lives; however when it comes to preparing for disasters, they can pose some unique challenges. Join us to learn from pet and [livestock emergency preparedness](#) experts about the considerations and trends emerging in household pet and live stock readiness strategies and disaster preparedness resources available to those with animals in their lives



September 22nd: Preparedness Considerations for Aging Americans.

Log in and learn about specific preparedness steps for Aging Americans. Hear from FEMA officials and leaders at the forefront of Aging American Preparedness and have your [questions answered](#):

- What can I do to bring preparedness to my community?
- What are the free resources available to me?
- How do I connect with my state emergency management?

If you know or care for someone that is aging, you'll want to join.

September 27th: Earthquakes can happen anywhere. Are you Ready?

You only have seconds. Do you know exactly [what to do](#) the moment the ground starts shaking? If it involves a doorway, a triangle, or running, these are not quake-safe actions. Participants on this Webinar will learn:

- How to get your organization involved in ShakeOut – the largest earth quake drill in the country
- Actions to take during an earthquake, taught by experts from Shake Out and FEMA
- Where to register so you can practice updated quake safety and learn more about quake preparedness



Communication

Can Mobile Phone Networks Be Improved to Better Cope with Emergencies?

In this article Scientific American [interviews](#) Andrea Goldsmith, a Stanford University electrical engineering professor on the possibilities for improving mobile network performance in emergencies.

Surveillance & Epidemiology

Swine-Origin Influenza A (H3N2) Virus Infection in Two Children — Indiana and Pennsylvania

[This report](#) describes two separate cases of swine-origin influenza A (H3N2) infection identified on August 19 and August 26, 2011. These viruses are unique in that one of the eight gene segments (matrix [M] gene) is from the 2009 influenza A (H1N1) virus. Clinicians who suspect influenza virus infection in humans with recent exposure to swine should obtain nasal swabs for timely diagnosis at a state public health laboratory and consider empiric neuraminidase inhibitor antiviral treatment to quickly limit potential human transmission.

Homeland Security

10 YEARS AFTER: THE 9/11 ESSAYS

9/11 Commemoration Features Reflective Essay by Secretaries Napolitano, Chertoff and Ridge and Assistant Sec. Stockton

The Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security is commemorating the tenth anniversary of 9/11 by featuring four special essays from leaders in Homeland Security:

- [Homeland Security Affairs: The 9/11 Essays](#). Reflective essays by Secretaries Napolitano, Chertoff and Ridge, Assistant Secretary Stockton and CHDS faculty.
- [Homeland Security Audio Archive](#). Recorded personal stories from CHDS alumni, students and faculty about 9/11 and other events that motivated them to serve.
- [CHDS Education Report](#). Highlights of the national impact of CHDS graduate and executive education and the Center's resources.
- [Homeland Security Digital Library](#). A special collection of 9/11 ten-year anniversary resources and topical blogs.

Food Safety Defense

Since 2004 the National Center for Food Protection and Defense has been revising the way food producers evaluate themselves for defense. Instead of focusing on risk management at a facility-to-facility scale, the center has helped producers transition to a [systems-based approach](#), ensuring each segment of the supply chain manages its own vulnerabilities with checks and balances.

Region 2 North is pleased to announce that Dr. Binesh Patel is the new Region 2 North Medical Director effective September 1, 2011. Dr. Patel is the Vice-Chief of the emergency department at Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital and also serves on the Oakland County Medical Control Authority board. He is Board Certified in Emergency Medicine by the American Board of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Patel earned his B.S. in biology from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and his Medical Doctor degree from the Medical College of Ohio in Toledo. Current Medical Director, Dr. Lynn Blavin, will be working with Dr. Patel to ensure a smooth transition during the month of September.

Starting at the end of August, and continuing throughout the month of September, the Region 2 North staff will be visiting each hospital and EMS agency that has regionally funded assets to assess the state of the equipment and gather any missing inventory information.

Knowing the quantities and types of regional assets that are available, and having quick access to that information could be critical in times of need. Equipment in this inventory includes lap-top ventilators, decontamination tents, interoperable communications devices, personal protective gear, evacuation chairs or sleds, radiological detection devices, mass fatality kits, and other miscellaneous emergency preparedness assets.

A Decade after 9/11 and Anthrax Attacks, Public Health Preparedness Remains Critical

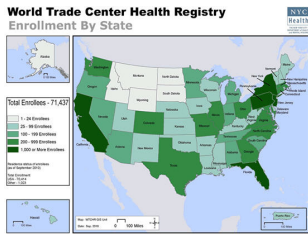
Continued strategic investment is needed to ensure that the country remains prepared to respond to public health emergencies like bioterrorism or natural disasters, and to the new emergencies and concerns that will undoubtedly emerge.

On September 1, 2011 Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released a [report](#), *Remembering 9/11 and Anthrax: Public Health's Vital Role in National Defense*, featuring more than 30 firsthand accounts of public health professionals who were directly involved in the response to the September 11, 2001 and anthrax tragedies. The events marked the first time that public health came to be considered central to emergency response and national security on a wide-scale basis – and the stories reflect how health officials were working without adequate resources or training to respond to these types of attacks.



NYC Health to Survey 70,000 About Their Health 10 Years After 9/11

A third major survey conducted by the World Trade Center (WTC) Health Registry launches this summer. Those to be surveyed include more than 70,000 people who were exposed to the WTC attacks and aftermath, including rescue and recovery workers, Lower Manhattan residents, and area workers. Data collection continues through early March 2012. The Registry was established by the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene and the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. Click [here](#) to learn more about the registry and significant findings from its first two surveys.



Hurricane Irene Causes Funding Diversion, Flooding in Its Wake

FEMA has implemented its [Immediate Needs](#) Funding in response to Hurricane Irene, which left behind billions of dollars worth of damage along the East Coast. This may cause discontinuation of recovery efforts from earlier disasters this year such as the tornado in Joplin, although individual assistance programs will remain fully funded.

Weather Disasters this Year Hit \$35 Billion and Counting

According to a report from the [National Climatic Data Center](#) (NCDC), there have been at least nine US weather-related disasters which have caused over a billion dollars in damages so far this year. Before hurricane Irene hit this past week, weather-related disasters caused approximately \$35 billion in damages; from the Groundhog Day blizzards to tornadoes, wildfires, and flooding. The report states that while it will take time to accurately estimate the damage from Hurricane Irene, this event will most likely be ranked at the tenth billion-dollar disaster of 2011. The NCDC tracks weather-related events both in the US and globally which have economic and societal impact. The NCDC report lists billion dollar US weather disasters since 1980.

Reaping the Whirlwind: Emergency Physician Recounts His Fateful Brush with a Deadly Twister in Joplin, MO



Dr. Kevin Kitka, an emergency room physician, recounts [his experience](#) during the Joplin, MO tornado in the Annals of Emergency Medicine. Dr. Kitka was in the St. Johns Regional Medical Center on May 22, 2011 when it was destroyed by an EF5 tornado. The full story is available online.

Persons Requiring Supervised Living get a Safe Room

With a grant from the FEMA Baldwin County, Alabama, built a [safe room](#) for people with disabilities that provides shelter during storm emergencies.

Tools & Resources

New Resources for Those Experiencing 9/11 Anniversary Reactions

As the 10-year anniversary of 9/11 approaches, the National Child Traumatic Stress Network has created a [public awareness page](#) for families, youth, educators, disaster response workers, medical personnel, and mental health professionals. This directory of products and resources has information to help those experiencing anniversary reminders of this national tragedy or those facing current stresses, adversities, or concerns.

Android App for WISER Now Available

The first release of WISER for android is now available. WISER (Wireless Information System for Emergency Responders) is a mobile application designed to assist first responders in hazardous material incidents. First responders in general, and HAZMAT units in particular, must make many decisions quickly in handling hazardous-materials incidents. They need accurate information about the hazardous substances, the emergency resources available, and the surrounding environmental conditions to save lives and minimize the impact on the environment and physical property. WISER for Android can be downloaded and installed directly from [Android's marketplace](#).



CDC Learning Connection

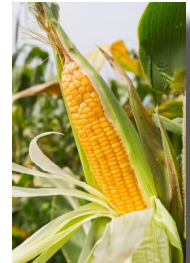
CDC Learning Connection is a new website, and features learning products for public health professionals and clinicians that were developed by CDC and CDC partners. As a component of [CDC Learning Connection](#), CDC TRAIN is a new learning management system that will provide you and your public health colleagues with advanced searching capabilities, evaluation methods, and a user-rating system. CDC TRAIN allows professionals and volunteers who protect the public's health to search and register for more than 20,000 courses and more than 3,700 course providers.

New Interstate Chemical Threats Workgroup (ICTW) Website

A soon-to-be released public webpage (www.ICTW.net) will provide a wealth of information and resources developed and shared by members on a variety of chemically-related preparedness topics presented throughout the years. The Interstate Chemical Threats Workgroup was formed in 2002, following the events of 9/11 to share knowledge, materials and resources on chemical threats and to promote cross-disciplinary awareness in chemical preparedness. An electronic newsletter, published monthly, covers recent chemical incidents and chemical preparedness news, tools, tips, and in-depth chemical features.

Preparedness Resources for Citizens of Rural Agricultural Communities

The All-Hazards Preparedness for [Rural Communities](#) guide was developed by the Multi-State Partnership for Security in Agriculture as a resource for citizens of rural agricultural communities across the Midwest individuals, farmers and producers, businesses with the hope of raising awareness of the natural and man-made threats to these communities and their commodities.



National Disaster Interfaiths Network Preparedness Campaign

The National Disaster Interfaiths Network has launched its Be a Ready Congregation campaign. Key to this [campaign](#) are the NDIN "Disaster Tip Sheets for U.S. Religious Leaders." Each Tip Sheet offers all-hazards best practices and resource links about disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery specifically of relevance to religious leaders, faith communities and faith-based organizations. These Tip Sheets aim to educate and assist religious leaders and their congregations as they prepare to serve and respond in effective, inclusive, and compassionate ways.



Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) sees Facebook Friends As Potential Disaster Lifelines

The HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR) has launched the [Lifeline Facebook App Challenge](#) for developers to create an app that would allow users to ask for assistance from their "lifelines" in a disaster with geo-locational and informational sharing utility.

CDC and the Indian Health Service Issue Tribal SNS Resource Guide

CDC and the Indian Health Service have issued a [resource guide](#) for American Indian and Alaska Native Government leaders: Preparing Tribal Nations to Receive Strategic National Stockpile Assets. This brochure offers suggestions and tools for tribal governments to work with their state and local partners for requesting, receiving and dispensing SNS assets in public health emergencies.

Training & Events

Webcast: The New Food Safety Modernization Act: What it Does and Why We Need It

Wednesday, September 21, 2011, Noon – 1:30 p.m

Join the Webinar: www.jhsph.edu/maphtc

Presenters: Sharon Mayl, J.D., Senior Policy Advisor, U.S. Food and Drug Administration and Kevve Nachman, PhD, MHS, Director, Farming for the Future Program, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health

For more information, please contact the MidAtlantic Public Health Training Center at

443-287-7833 or maphtc@jhsph.edu, No registration is necessary

Date/Time	Event	Location
Sept 25-27, 2011	<u>23rd Annual MCRA Critical Incident Stress Management Conference</u> Five courses are being offered. See Web site for details.	Tustin, MI
October 5 October 6 October 18 October 20 November 1 November 2 November 9 November 10	<u>MDCH 2011 Fall Immunization Conferences</u> keynote speaker from CDC will present a Vaccine Update and also participate in a Troubleshooting Panel at each conference location. The online registration begins August 29th. More details will be posted on the MDCH Division of Immunization Website as they become available.	East Lansing, MI Dearborn, MI Gaylord, MI Marquette, MI Bay City, MI Troy, MI Kalamazoo, MI Grand Rapids, MI
October 13-14, 2011	<u>Michigan's Premier Public Health Conference</u> More information is available online.	Grand Rapids, MI
October 19-21, 2011	<u>2011 ASTHO Annual Meeting</u> This year's ASTHO Annual meeting will feature key note speakers, Dr. Tom Frieden, CDC Director and Dr. Mary Wakefield, HRSA Administrator. Sessions include: a storytelling workshop, food safety, preparedness, integration of public health and healthcare, injury prevention and more. For Information is available on the ASTHO events Webpage.	Portland, OR



Mailing Address:

Office of Public Health Preparedness

Capitol View Building - 201 Townsend Street - Lansing, MI 48913

(517) 335-8150 — <http://www.michigan.gov/ophp>

This publication is supported by Cooperative Agreement Number 5U90/TP517018-09 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of CDC.

